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1. About two weeks after the return of Gottwald from the Crimea, Dr. Dionysius Polansky, a prominent member of the People's Party who was closely connected with the Soviet Embassy, called a meeting of twenty selected lawyers of the People's Party, at which he made a speech to the following effect: "States cannot exist without a good tradition. Czechoslovakia has its tradition, which is 1000 years old in Bohemia and Moravia, and in addition there is the old idea of a free Slovakia, which came true in 1918. We founded this state of Czechs and Slovaks in 1918 and afterwards renewed it in 1945. Also the other countries to which we are attached by bonds of friendship, i.e. all Slav States, but also Hungary and Rumania, have their tradition, even though some of them arose out of the ruins of the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy. However, it is not possible to live solely on the basis of political tradition. Economic motives are increasingly gaining the upper hand. Austria-Hungary disintegrated because it was based on an economic, and not on a political, foundation. The ideal of the monarchy, and a rather rotten monarchy at that, was not strong enough to hold it together, and this was the cause for its breakdown. But in the Peoples' Democracies, there is another and infinitely stronger bond: popular democracy. It is more than logical for Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Poland to form an entity, by supplementing each other economically in an ideal way so as to become completely independent from western Europe and the USA. Another decisive reason is that all these States are moved by the same idea and by the principle of the people's democracy. It is known that similar plans were brought up before, but at that time they were not yet ripe for realization. Now, on the return of the President of the Republic Gottwald, the speaker is able to announce the good news that at the Crimean conference, Stalin gave his explicit consent to raise the matter (beforehand discussed only in expert circles) of the so-called Danubian Federation of the Peoples' Democracies."

2. After this speech, a short debate followed. Somebody asked where Poland came in in a Danubian Federation, but naturally, everybody present agreed and suggested that a resolution should be worked out, which would be submitted to Zapotocky and Gottwald. It was explained to them that Zapotocky and Gottwald

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had so far no use for a resolution, that the matter had to remain, for the time being, strictly confidential, and that it would also be debated in the other parties of Czechoslovakia and made subject to preparatory discussions in the other countries. It is necessary to add that this is not a new idea. Already in 1935 and 1936, Fedor Hodza, at the time Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia, determinedly advanced the idea of a Danubian Federation, but without success. In 1947, it was none other than Dimitroff who published his opinion of the necessity of a new Donauland. At that time, Dimitroff's idea was categorically turned down by Moscow. The time had not yet come, especially since Hungary and Czechoslovakia were at that time still democratic countries. However, now, since the introduction of dictatorship in Hungary in 1947 and in Czechoslovakia in February, 1948, the situation has completely changed. Now all satellite states are 100 percent obedient to Moscow; a Danubian Federation, of high economic value and at the same time completely enslaved by Moscow, is without doubt a wonderful tool in the hands of the Cominform.

3. The possible reasons for Moscow's approval of this new Union are numerous. The establishment of an economically prosperous and mutually complementary entity, would, if necessary, also form a counterweight against the 16 States in the Marshall Plan. The Danubian Federation would also include obstinate but Communist Yugoslavia and some common economic and at the same time political controlling body of the Danubian federation would certainly often get an opportunity to outvote Yugoslavia and be able slowly to force her, by various means, to become once more obedient to Moscow. Although Poland will be a member of the Danubian Federation, no provisions have been made for the inclusion of Austria. Opinions are split on this matter, but it is certain that Moscow will retain a free hand to exert economic pressure on Austria and disrupt her.

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